

City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture

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MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL REAPPOINTS FIVE TO THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO COMMISSION FOR ARTS AND CULTURE

San Diego, CA... Today, Mayor Jerry Sanders announced the reappointment of Vicki Reed as the Chair of the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture. Reed has served as Chair since October 2010. The Mayor said: "The City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture serves in an advisory capacity to the Mayor and City Council on promoting, encouraging and increasing support for the region's artistic and culture assets, integrating arts and culture into community life and showcasing San Diego as an international tourist destination" and acknowledged Vicki Reed "for her willingness to give her time, talents and expertise to serve the City of San Diego."

The Mayor and City Council also confirmed the appointment of a new Commissioner Dr. Laurie Mitchell and reappointed Commissioners Larry Baza, Joanne Hayakawa, Lewis Klein, Lorin Stewart and John Venekamp.

Dr. Laurie Mitchell graduated from Wellesley College in Wellesley, Massachusetts in 1985 with cum laude honors and received her medical degree in 1990 from the University of Southwestern Texas Medical School in Dallas, Texas. She has worked in San Diego since 1997 and has passionately supported the local arts community through her exemplary service. Mitchell is an accomplished pediatrician and very active in the community. As a dedicated advocate for local art programs, Mitchell has served on the Board of Directors of the New Children's Museum, Museum of Man and the City Ballet of San Diego. Presently, she serves on the Collections Committee of the Museum of Contemporary Art and is a committed member of the San Diego Women's Foundation. Mitchell resides in Bankers Hill.

Larry Baza is a professional arts administrator with more than 32 years of experience in advocating for the arts at the local, state and national level. In his professional career, Baza has directed and managed San Diego arts organizations and businesses including Centro Cultural De La Raza, Sushi Performance and Visual Arts, Fingerhut Gallery and Community Arts of San Diego. His wealth of knowledge and experience includes affiliations, consultancies, site visits and panel participation with various arts organizations including the National Endowment for the Arts, California Arts Council, California Association of Local Arts Organizations, Chicano Federation of San Diego County and National Association of Latino Arts and Culture. Baza is a partner in Noel-Baza Fine Art Gallery in Little Italy and resides in North Park.

Joanne Hayakawa has been a Professor of Art at San Diego State University since 1982. Hayakawa's artistic talents and more than 33 years experience within the arts arena has allowed her to teach, lecture, and exhibit at galleries, universities, museums, art centers, and diverse art venues throughout the country and internationally. She has also lectured on her own work and public art in San Diego, throughout the United States and at the State Institute of Ceramics in Faenza, Italy. Hayakawa received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Art from the University of California, Santa Barbara and a Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Washington. Hayakawa resides in Scripps Ranch.

Lewis Klein is Account Vice President for UBS. He is past Board President of Sledgehammer Theater and has been on the board of Eveoke Dance Theater. Klein was a member of Partners for Livable Places. He served on the Development Committee of the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego. He is a Director for the National Conflict Resolution Center and serves on the Investment Policy Committee for the Jewish Community Foundation. Klein is a member of the President's Club of the Salk Institute. Klein resides in Golden Hill.

Lorin Stewart is the Executive Director of the San Diego Tourism Marketing District, a nonprofit mutual benefit corporation dedicated to improving tourism and hotel room night consumption in the City of San Diego. He started his career in the hospitality industry in 1989 when he joined the Old Town Trolley Tours of San Diego, a subsidiary of Historic Tours of America (HTA). He promoted to HTA's Director of Operations, implemented the creation of the SEAL Tours of San Diego and facilitated oversight for the Old Town Market development project. He served on the 2007-08 board of directors of the California Chamber of Commerce and as the 2006-07 chairman of the San Diego Convention and Visitors Bureau. Stewart has a B.A. degree in humanities from Santa Clara University and a (postgraduate) certificate from the Guildhall in London. Stewart resides in Rancho Peñasquitos.

John Venekamp is Senior Vice President/Managing Director for Brown Harris Stevens, a full service real estate firm in New York City. From 1987-1994, Venekamp was the Founder and President of New York-based Access Marketing, a marketing consulting company, and held various management positions for the J.C. Penney Company for more than 20 years. Venekamp chaired the Board of Directors for the Empire State Craft Alliance and led leadership seminars on "How to Support the Arts." He also served on the Board of Directors for Ziff Marketing, the largest arts marketing and advertising organization in New York City. Venekamp received a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from the University of South Dakota and has completed executive graduate courses in Business Administration at the University of Tennessee and Harvard University. Venekamp resides in Rancho Santa Fe.

For more information please call the Commission office at (619) 236-6778 or visit the Commission website at **www.sandiego.gov/arts-culture**.

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